

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 0662

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNR, TU UN

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - REPORT OF GREENFIELD TEAM

FOLLOWING ISPECTION OF GREENFLIED TEAM'S REPORT REGARDING
SITUATION AND PROSPECTS IN POPPY GROWING AREAS.

"7. GOVT'S DECISION OF SEPT 1974 TO ABANDON PRODUCTION OPIUM AND
RELY EXCLUSIVELY HENCEFORWARD ON POPPY STRAW AS SOURCE MATERIAL FOR
MANUFACTURE OF MORPHINE AND ITS DERIVATIVES INVOLVES SUCH RADICAL
CHANGES IN LONG ESTABLISHED PATTERN OF PRIMARY PRODUCTION AS ALMOST
TO CONSITUTE NEW ENTERPRISE.

"8. IMPORTANCE OF CULTIVATOR IN THIS UNDERTAKING IS TOO OBVIOUS TO
NEED BE STRESSED. IF PERSONAL FACTORS ARE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT
...IT HAS BE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT INHABITANTS OF POPPY GROWING AREAS
HAVE PARTICULAR CLAIM TO CONSIDERATION. THEIR LOT IS HARD ONE.
NATURAL DISADVANTAGES SUCH AS POOR SOIL AND SCANTY WATER SUPPLIES
HAVE LARGELY EXCLUDED THEM FROM RECENT ADVANCES IN AGRICULTURE
ECONOMY OF COUNTRY.NOR IS IT POSSIBLE IN SUCH AREAS OF MAINLY
SUBSISTENCE FARMING FOR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPROVE HIS PROSPECTS FROM
WITHIN HIS OWN RESOURCES.

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9. APART FROM SUCH GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS, HOWEVER, SPECIAL

THOUGHT HAS TO BE GIVEN TO CULTIVATOR AS KEY ELEMENT IN WHILE ENTERPRISES. HIS UNRESERVED PARTICIPATION IS ESSENTIAL TO UNSURE DELIVERY OF ENTIRE CROP IN OPTIMUM QUALITY AND CONDITION. OBVIOUS FIRST NEED TO THIS END IS HE SHOULD RECEIVE FAIR PRICE FOR THIS PRODUCT, PRICE WHICH WILL OF NECESSITY HAVE BE CALCULATED ON BASIS OF PRICE OBTAINABLE ON SALE IN WORLD MARKET; AND PAYMENT SHOULD BE PROMPTLY MADE AFTER DUE PROCESS OF WEIGHMENT AND INSPECTION. HE SHOULD ALSO BE AFFORDED ACCESS TO HIGHER YIELDING SEEDS AND INSTRUCTION IS BETTER FARMING METHODS. AS AN INITIAL STEP THIS DIRECTION MISSION UNDERTOOK TO OBTAIN APPROVED SEEDS FROM OTHER POPPY GROWING COUNTRIES AND TO SUPPLY THEM FOR TRIAL ON TURKEY'S EXPERIMENTAL FARMS; SHORT SUMMARY OF ADVICE ON FARMING METHODS IS GIVEN IN APPENDIX A. IT IS ESTIMATED IN THIS WAY IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO INCREASE BOTH YIELD PER HECTARE AND MORPHINE CONTENT OF PLANT BY AT LEAST 50 PERCENT. AT SAME TIME FARMER'S HARVEST OF SEED WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY. THERE WOULD THUS BE THREEFOLD ENHANCEMENT OF EARNING CAPACITY OF INDIVIDUAL FARMER AND SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE IN PROFITABILITY OF WHILE OPERATION. IT IS NOT UNDULY OPTIMISTIC TO SAY THAT UNDER PROPER DIRECTION THIS DESIRABLE RESULT WOULD BE ATTAINABLE WITHIN RELATIVELY FEW YEARS. THEREAFTER STILL HIGHER YIELDS COULD ENSUE. AS ONE CONSEQUENCE OF SUCH IMPROVEMENTS IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO REDUCE AREA UNDER POPPY CULTIVATION; AND IF THIS WERE DONE COST OF SECURITY CONTROLS WOULD BE TO THAT EXTENT REDUCE.

"10. THUS TOTAL BENEFITS ATTAINABLE ARE SUBSTANTIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM SHOULD BE SO SHAPED AND APPLIED AS TO ENSURE THEY ARE IN FACT REALIZED. IN PARTICULAR IT SHOULD BE MADE CONTINUALLY APPARENT TO FARMER THAT CROP BETTERMENT IS INTEGRAL PART OF MONOCULTURE AND THAT BY COOPERATING CLOSELY WITH AUTHORITIES HE CAN IMPROVE LOT OF HIMSELF AND HIS FAMILY YEAR BY YEAR. IN THIS WAY SECURITY AND GOOD FARMING CAN BE ALLIED IN DOUBLE HARNESS.

"11. FOR MOMENT, HOWEVER, THESE BENEFITS ARE ONLY VISIONARY AND HAVE NO PLACE IN FARMER'S RECKONING, EVEN AS POSSIBILITIES TO BE DREAMED OF. CROP IS IN GROUND; SEEDS SOWN LAST AUTUMN WERE OLD; VIRTUALLY NO FERTILIZERS HAVE BEEN APPLIED; ONLY TRADITIONAL METHODS CULTIVATION HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED. YIELDS WILL THEREFORE BE LOW AND TOTAL HARVEST IS EXPECTED TO NO MORE THAN 16,000 TONS. EVEN SO IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT MORPHINE YIELD FROM STRAW IS LIKELY

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EXCESS THAT FROM OPIUM BY AS MUCH AS 40 PERCENT. AN AMPLER CROP IS LOOKED FOR NEXT YEAR: PERHAPS IN ORDER OF 20,000 TONS.

"12. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS FIRST OBJECTIVE UNDER NEW DISPENSATION SHOULD BE TO SAFEGUARD 1975 CROP. BOTH TMO AND LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES ARE CONFIDENT TO THEIR ABILITY TO PRESERVE QUALITY INTACT. SO FAR AS COULD BE JUDGED FROM PRESENT SHORT VISIT (RESTRICTED BY WEATHER CONDITIONS TO ANKARA) THIS CONFIDENCE IS WELL FOUNDED,

PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT INTERDEPARTMENTAL COOPERATION OBSERVABLE AT HEADQUARTERS IS EXTENDED TO INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS INDUSTRIES AND IS CONSTANTLY MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT POPPY GROWING AREAS. GOOD AUGURY FOR SUCCESS SECURITY MEASURES LIES IN CLOSE AND CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP SUBSISTING BETWEEN RELEVANT SECTOR OF UN ADMINISTRATION IN GENEVA AND SENIOR TURKISH OFFICERS, BOTH IN TMO, POLICE AND JANDARMA, WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH FIELD CONTROLS; AND UNTIL CONFIDENCE IN EFFICACY OF THOSE MEASURES WOULD BE STRENGTHENED IF UN OBSERVERS WERE INVITED BE PRESENT THROUGHOUT PERIOD OF HARVEST IN 1975.

"13. SIMILAR CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN--IN COLLECTION, TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND SHIPMENT--TO ENSURE THAT QUALITY IS NOT IMPAIRED. PARTICULAR DANGER IS DAMP, WHICH CAN ADVERSELY AFFECT MORPHINE CONTENT OF CAPSULES. ON THIS GROUND, AND BECAUSE STORAGE CAPACITY AT COMMAND OF TMO IS SCARCE, EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO SELL WHOLE CROP ABROAD WITHOUT DELAY.

"14. THIS MAY NOT BE EASY. FOR SEVERAL YEARS PAST TURKISH POPPY STRAW HAS BEEN SOUGHT BY NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND THIS DEMAND IS LIKELY TO BE KEENER NOW THAT CAPSULES ARE TO BE UNLANCED. ON OTHER HAND DEMAND WILL BE CONDITIONED BY TWO CONSTRICTING FACTORS. FIRST IS THAT TWELVE KNOWN MORPHINE EXTRACTION PLANTS IN WORLD ARE SMALL AND THEIR PROCESSING CAPACITY IS ACCORDINGLY LIMITED, LARGEST HAVING ANNUAL CAPACITY AT PRESENT OF 8,000 METRIC TONS OF STRAW, WHILE OTHERS (EXCEPT THAT OF USSR WHICH SEEMS BE SELF SUFFICIENT IN RESPECT POPPY STRAW) ARE OF MUCH SMALLER DIMENSIONS. SECOND IS THAT ADDITIONAL PLANTING HAS TAKEN PLACE IN NUMBER OF POPPY GROWING AREAS. TMO IS, HOWEVER, EXPERIENCED IN INTL MARKETING OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS AND MAY BE RELIED UPON TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OFFERED BY NEED FOR ALL EXTRACTION PLANTS TO MAINTAIN STOCKPILE OF POPPY STAW TO KEEP THEIR MACHINERY IN CONTINUOUS OPERATION. DURING DISCUSSIONS
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ANKARA MISSION PROVIDED TMO WITH LIST OF ALL FACTORIES WHICH TO ITS KNOWLEDGE ARE AT PRESENT ENGAGED IN PRODUCING CONCENTRATE OF POPPY STRAW. THERE IS THUS GOOD GROUND FOR HOPE THAT BY AUTUMN TURKEY WILL HAVE NONE OF 1975 CROP LEFT ON HER HANDS.

"15. SAME CONSIDERATIONS WILL APPLY TO 1976 CROP IF BY THAT TIME TURKEY'S OWN EXTRACTION PLANT IS NOT YET IN OPERATION; AND PRUDENCE REQUIRES THAT ALL DISPOSITIONS RELATING CURRENT CROP PROSPECTS OF SUCCEEDING CROP YEAR SHOULD BE KEPT CLOSELY IN MIND.

"16. ONE MEASURE WHICH TURKISH AUTHORITIES WILL WISH TO ADOPT, AND WHICH IS IN ANY CASE TO BE RECOMMENDED AS ADMINISTRATIVE GOOD PRACTICE, IS THAT IN ADDITION TO TESTING SAMPLES OF IMPORTED POPPY SEEDS, AGRICULTURE SERVICE SHOULD INSTITUTE PARALLEL TESTS OF HIGHER-YIELDING, INDIGENOUS VARIETIES OF SEEDS AND SHOULD CARRY OUT, AND RECORD, A CONTINUOUS EVALUATION OF BOTH SERIES OF TESTS AND

RESULTS OF SUCCESSIVE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE FARMING METHODS. THESE RECORDS WILL AT SAME TIME YIELD EVIDENCE OF COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE OF INDIVIDUAL FARMERS, THEREBY ENABLING THOSE WHO ARE LESS EFFICIENT OR RELIABLE TO BE GIVEN APPROPRIATE STIMULATION OR IN EXTREME CASES TO HAVE THEIR LICENSES WITHDRAWN. THEY WOULD ALSO PROVIDE BASIS OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SECTION WHICH COULD IN TIME BE EXPANDED AND IMPROVED OUT OF PROFITS DERIVED FROM OVERSEAS SALES OF POPPY STRAW AND IN DUE COURSE FROM PRODUCTION OF POPPY STRAW CONCENTRATE AND ALKALOIDS.DALE

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